

PUBLIC NOTICE

PERMIT APPLICATION: NRS #05-474

APPLICANT: Hoyte Jones, Chairman
Upper Cumberland Regional Airport
750 Airport Road
Sparta, TN 38583
(931) 528-5426

LOCATION: Wetlands adjacent to the Upper Cumberland Regional Airport (UCRA). West of State Route 111 and Hamptons Crossroads White County.

WATERSHED DESCRIPTION: The subject wetlands are emergent herbaceous and scrub-shrub wetland types. Surrounding land use is pasture to the southeast and the existing airport and access road to the west- northwest.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to expand the Upper Cumberland Regional Airport facility. The division issued an Aquatic Resource Alteration Permit to UCRA on February 2, 2004. UCRA relinquished this permit based on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decision to regulate the wetlands at the airport.

The project will involve the placement of fill in three isolated wetlands totaling 10.08 acres. Compensation for the wetland impacts will occur at two sites. The first is the 30.33 acre Gum Springs site approximately 13.2 miles from the airport. A combination of 5.01 acres of wetland restoration, 3.8 acres of creation and 18.72 acres of enhancement will occur. A state listed threatened species, *Xyris laxifolia* var. *iridifolia* (wide -leaf yellow eyed grass).

In addition, the applicant shall purchase an approximate 10.3 acre site on Breeding Swamp Road, just to the west of the proposed project. This site is adjacent to wetlands owned by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and the Tennessee Department of Transportation. The applicant proposes to enhance 8.15 acres and restore 2.15 acres. The site contains two state listed species of special concern, *Xyris ambigua* and *Eriocaulon decangulare*. In addition, the applicant has agreed to aid in the transfer and establishment of the barking tree frog (*Hyla gratiosa*) from the airport wetland to the Gum Springs wetland mitigation site.

Both mitigation sites will require occasional maintenance to maintain these species. They will be protected in perpetuity through the division's Land Use Restrictions document and/or conveyance to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources

Agency. The mitigation sites shall be monitored with performance criteria and protected in perpetuity. A sum of \$35,000 will be placed in escrow with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation for long-term maintenance.

The division has determined that the waters in which fill would be placed are Tier II high quality and that the work as proposed would result in degradation or more than *de minimis* impact.

The Upper Cumberland Regional Airport is therefore requesting permission to degrade Tier II waters. This request must be justified based on economic and social necessity and that there are no feasible alternatives to filling these waters that would allow the project to be implemented as proposed. The Upper Cumberland Regional Airport will provide information to the division on the social and economic necessity for the proposed project.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the request are invited to provide comments to Division of Water Pollution Control at the address printed below.

Division of Water Pollution Control

**Attn: Mike Lee
7TH Floor, L and C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243-1534**

After consideration of the request and comments received from the public the division will conduct a public meeting on the matter unless the division notifies the public of its determination that the discharge will not result in degradation.